(c) if so, the steps Government is considering to take to increase the infrastructure facilities for tourists;

(d) whether any concrete plan of action has been prepared by the Ministry to develop the tourism in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Government has been taking various measures to promote tourism with a view to increase the flow of foreign tourists to India. The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India has increased from 2.38 million in 2002 to about 5 million in 2007.

(b) The foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from tourism in India have increased from US$ 3.10 billion in 2002 to an estimated US$11.62 billion in 2007.

(c) to (e) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to them for tourism infrastructure projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them. To facilitate development of tourism in a systematic and wholistic manner, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-Year Perspective Plans for States/ Union Territories at the beginning of the 10th Five Year Plan. These perspective plans, which give action plans for tourism development in the short term and long term, were sent to the State/UT Governments to guide them in initiating action for development and promotion of tourism.

Fall in visiting tourists

2464. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourists visiting our country has been decreasing for the last 3 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during the year 2007 there was only five million tourists arrival as against the 10.3 million tourists who visited Singapore during that period; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto and remedial steps Government proposes to take to attract tourists from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The foreign tourist arrivals in India have increased in last 3 years as may be seen from the figures below:—

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India (in million)
2005	3.92
2006	4.45
2007*	5.00

*Provisional

(c) According to the latest figures available from United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), there were about 7.59 million international tourist arrivals in Singapore in 2006 as compared to 4.45 million foreign tourist arrivals in India.

(d) India has been achieving consistently a high growth rate of 13.3%, 13.5% and 12.4% in foreign tourist arrivals in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. Some of the important steps being taken to attract more foreign tourists in India include the integrated development of tourist infrastructure at tourist circuits and destinations, growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels, augmentation of air capacity, enhancing availability of skilled manpower, according greater focus in emerging markets particularly in the regions of China, North-East Asia and South-East Asia and international publicity campaigns through the electronic and print media, etc.

Development of tourist resort in Orissa

2465. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government proposes to develop a tourist resort near the Dakhinapur reservoir, which would provide water sports, floating restaurants and picnic spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help this State for effective execution of this project, to improve the economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territories themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories for grant of Central financial assistance every year under the following schemes:

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits

(ii) Large Revenue Generating projects

(iii) Fairs and Festivals/Events

(iv) Information Technology

No proposal has been submitted by the Government of Orissa to Ministry of Tourism regarding development of a tourist resort near the Dakhinapur reservoir.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned tourism projects to the tune of Rs. 7235.39 lakh and Rs. 2327.05 lakh for the State of Orissa in the Tenth Plan and in the year 2007-08 respectively.

Medical tourism

2466. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Tourism is gaining ground in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith figures for the last two years; and